

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, April 1. 1708.

AND so the *French* are gone Home again, are they? And all the mighty Project is come to nothing.

Their numerous Fleet with seven thousand Men Went out to Sea, and so came Home again.

After giving Thanks to Almighty GOD, whose Influence governs all the Affairs of the World, and whose Government is so much rejected by some, and deny'd by others, that it is out of Fashion to speak of it; there may be some very useful Observations made from it, which some People perhaps may think odd, but I must own I am of another Opinion.

I have always agreed with the general Notion, that standing Armies in Time of

Peace, are dangerous to the Liberties of the Country they are maintain'd in, and I allow a great Deal more of the many Lengths hasty People have run into on that Head; but as to those People who were for no Regular Forces at all, and leaving us quite naked to the Insults of our Enemies, that were for having our *Militia* be our Defence, and neither Generals, Fortifications, nor Regular Troops, they may now come and learn a new Lesson.

1. That SOME FORCE— is as necessary to secure a Kingdoms Property, as too much is dangerous to its Liberty.

I know,

I know, I am upon a dangerous Precipice in this Argument, and have a Crowd of pretended Patriots ready to push me head-long down, that I might dash upon the Rocks of Tyranny and absolute Government; and it is much if I do not raise a Mob upon me, as if I were writing for Stationary Legions in the Hands of the Prince, as a Rod of Iron to rule the Nation by.

But to let these malicious People know, they will be disappointed in their Expectation, I must make a previous Declaration of my true and genuine Design or Meaning in the Word **SOME FORCE**.

This I have formerly explain'd to be meant by me thus,

1. *Such a Force and no more*, as the People of *England* represented in free Parliament shall agree to be necessary, and consent to be kept up.
2. *Such Force and no more*, as shall always be entirely subjected to Parliamentary Authority, as to their Disposition and Continuance.

To tell us, such a Force so subjected shall in Time subdue the Parliament, reduce their Masters, and enslave the Kingdom, I think, will admit of these Reasonings by Way of Reply.

1. It cannot be probable, that a Force so small, and so dispers'd for necessary Defence, as this must be, can endanger us; and it has not been instanc'd in any Age in the World.
2. While the Prince submits the Number and Continuance of them to Parliamentary Regulation, in which the following two Things are establish'd—
 1. *That they are paid by Money given but from Year to Year.*
 2. *That it is High-Treason for them to continue longer in Arms than one Year, unless renew'd by Parliament,* it seems impossible.
3. Tho' it had some Possibility of Danger in it, yet if it be prov'd to be necessary, that Risque must be run.

I wave the Weakness of their Arguments, who are for having the *Militia* being thought able to secure us against all the World, and yet will have 10000 Men of standing Troops be able to enslave us—These Things may hereafter come to be debated more largely, but the present Matter arises from hence.

You see, Gentlemen, what a Hurry and a Fright the Invasion of *Scotland* has put us all into, by a most contemptible Body of 5 to 7000 Men—— And, pray, what is it owing to?

I pretend to tell you, it is owing to two Things.

1. The Nakedness of *Scotland* with Respect to its own Defence.
2. The Division and Disaffection of the People.

And to make this more plain, I'll give you a Letter written me from a Person of Honour in that Country, which perhaps may give a brief Sketch of this Matter; the Person, I assure you, is perfectly in the Interest of the Government, and a Lover of Liberty, and in his Letter you may find some true Notions, and perhaps the best of the State of that Country, of any has been yet seen, both with Respect to the Defence of the Nation, and the Case of the Abjuration-Oath, which makes so much Noise among us.

S I R,

Junerkeinsing, March 11. 1708.

I Had wrote to you sooner, but that I had little to-tell you, excepting that I went from *Edinburgh* some Days after you went for *England*, and have found it necessary to carry Arms ever since for my Personal Defence; for we have now no Government, and the Murtherer, you know of, rambles, threatens, commits Rapes, &c. as he pleases, and

" and was lately at *Edinburgh*, in the
 " Face of Authority, without being
 " molested. But I have heard about
 " ten Days ago of a Descent from
 " *France*, probably design'd on *Scot-*
 " *land*, and should be glad to hear that
 " *England* was taking suitable Measures
 " to put us in Condition, to give the
 " *French* such Reception as they deserve;
 " you know as well as any Man the Cir-
 " cumstances of *Scotland*, and I appre-
 " hend you may readily grant, that
 " 5000 good Troops might pass from
 " one End of *Scotland* to the other with-
 " out much Opposition, as Matters
 " now stand; tho' I think the *French*
 " insatiate, supposing they can make
 " our *Firth*, if they do not land at
 " *Oramond*, where they may go on
 " the Sands at low Water in Order of
 " Battle, and may with little Opposi-
 " tion take *Edinburgh*, where they will
 " find a Million of Money coin'd, or
 " in Bullion and Plate. We have
 " scarce 3000 Regular Troops, and no
 " Militia. The common People be-
 " yond *Tay* have no Principle, except-
 " ing a few, but to obey their Superi-
 " ors and Landlords, who are general-
 " ly *Jacobites*; so that no Good can be
 " expected from them. I should think
 " it advisable, that a Militia of 40000
 " or 50000 Men of those, who are
 " known to be well affected to Her
 " Majesty, and of Revolution Princi-
 " ples, were establish'd on this Side *Tay*,
 " and which, if you in the *South* are
 " not too diffident to trust your Friends,
 " might be done; that some Officers
 " of known Integrity were appointed
 " to learn them their Exercises, which
 " might be done with their own Arms;

" that there were Magazines of good
 " and regular Arms with Ammunition
 " to be given them, in case there was
 " an Invasion, and that they were com-
 " manded by an *English* General, who,
 " if he were of good Morals, would be
 " more acceptable than a *Scotts* Man; for
 " our People are dissatisfy'd with our
 " own Nobility, because of the Union,
 " tho' the Presbyterians are for keeping
 " it since it is made. I see no Inconve-
 " nience in this Project, if it be not
 " that your High-Church will cry
 " out against arming the Scots-Presby-
 " terians, but they are in no Hazard;
 " for there is not, so far as I know,
 " one sober Presbyterian in *Scotland*,
 " who has the least Thought of Re-
 " forming the Church of *England* by
 " Force,

" As to the Oath of Abjuration, I
 " reckon it the Interest of the Go-
 " vernment not to impose it on *Scot-*
 " *land*, even tho' it was amended as to
 " the Limitation Clause; for it will
 " certainly divide our Church, many
 " of us scruple to swear the Oath of
 " Allegiance to her Majesty a second
 " Time, as being unnecessary; for the
 " World knows our entire Loyalty, and
 " we judge it a Grievance, that with
 " us such as have taken that Oath must
 " take it again in every new Capa-
 " city. Again, the Presbyterians in
 " *Scotland* keep their Oaths very Reli-
 " giously. Now the Parliament keeps it
 " in their own Power to alter the Suc-
 " cession, but if they swear us to it,
 " we will account our selves obliged
 " to maintain it, tho' they should change
 " it, if the Reasons of the Change do
 " not satisfy our Consciences; so that
 " by